MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

Sharon, Arens Interviews -- In a 23 December interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon accused the United States of wanting to make Israel return to its 1967 borders and asserted that the Golan Heights Law was necessary in order to make it clear that Israel will not do so. Saying that the United States does not understand the situation in Israel, he stressed that Prime Minister Menahem Begin's strong words during his 20 December meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis were intended to tell the Americans that no U.S.-imposed penalties will make Israel withdraw to the 1967 lines. asked about the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, Sharon said it still exists "as a formal agreement" and there are indications that it will still be implemented. He said, however, that the United States had violated the agreement by suspending it and this action should cause "serious concern" about U.S. credibility.

Speaking on Jerusalem radio's English service, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Moshe Arens said the United States has decided to adopt the Saudi Arabian position on Middle East issues, not realizing that the Saudi position is that of the PLO, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The new U.S. position, he added, probably involves moving away from the Camp David agreements.

Yamit Compensation Dispute -- Jerusalem radio reported that the Yamit action committee rejected a government offer to resume negotiations on compensation for settlers who must leave when the Sinai is handed over to Egypt next April. According to Jerusalem television, Yamit residents announced that Jerusalem radio reported that Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich told the Cabinet that the southern area military commander has stated he can no longer guarantee Ehrlich's safety if he comes to Yamit. Another radio report said the dispute centers on compensation for businesses and other nonresidential property; three-quarters of Yamit's residents have already been compensated for their houses and received relocation grants.

Egypt

Prisoners Released -- MENA carried the names of 29 prisoners released on 26 December on instructions from the socialist public prosecutor. Citing an official from the prosecutor's office, MENA said those released included political figures and others linked with the "sectarian sedition incidents" who were freed for humanitarian reasons. Citing OCTOBER magazine, Beirut radio reported that 'Umar 'Abd al-Fattah at-Talmasani, one of those listed, is the leader of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood group. It added that a number of Coptic clergymen were also freed.

Mubarak Meets Copts -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met on 26 December with the Coptic Church's five-man papal committee, MENA reported. After the meeting, the archbishop of Al-Gharbiyah told MENA that Mubarak gave them certain instructions and affirmed his belief in the patriotism of the church. The archbishop expressed his confidence that detained Christians will be released at the "appropriate" time.

Ghali Interview -- During an interview with the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali repeatedly stressed that Egypt will continue to pursue the peace process after Israel withdraws from the Sinai next April, despite the fact that Israel's Golan Heights Law has raised a serious obstacle to that process. He said that after the Israeli withdrawal, Egypt will concentrate on bringing moderate Arab states into the peace process.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad continued his tour of Arabian Peninsula countries, visiting Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, the YAR and the PDRY between 24 and 27 December, according to local radio and news agency reports. WAKH reports noted that Al-Asad's talks with the leaders of Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE focused on the recent application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. The leaders agreed to continue contacts on this issue. According to Damascus radio reports, the same topic was discussed during Al-Asad's meetings in the YAR and the PDRY. Citing Kuwait's Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Awadhi, KUNA reported that during talks in Kuwait last week, Al-Asad and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah discussed the Iraqi-Iranian war and the convening of an Arab foreign ministers meeting to prepare for the forthcoming Arab summit.

Jordan

In an interview with the Beirut magazine AN-NAWAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, reported by Amman radio, King Husayn warned that Israel now has enough weapons and arms-producing capability to wage war on all fronts for at least 6 months without outside help. He called for an Arab summit meeting to resolve differences, including Syrian-Jordanian hostility and the Iraqi-Iranian war. He stressed that the Saudi peace initiative has now become an Arab initiative supported by the majority of Arab states. King Husayn denied Syrian charges of Jordanian interference in Syria's internal affairs, asserting that the two issues dividing Syria and Jordan are the Lebanese situation and the Iraqi-Iranian war. Elsewhere in the interview, the king expressed dissatisfaction with current French policy on the Middle East.

Lebanon

Citing UNIFIL sources, Jerusalem radio reported that Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia forces expelled 16 southern Lebanese from their villages to Tyre late last week. The 16 were told that they could not return home until the Palestinians release seven southern Lebanese residents they have captured. According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, the militia forces are conducting a campaign of random arrests and deportations and are holding "dozens" of southern Lebanese villagers in a prison in 'Aynata.

On 27 and 28 December the Voice of Hope radio broadcast six communiques issued by the "Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from the Syrian-Palestinian Occupation." The communiques detailed recent attacks by the front on the Arab Deterrent Forces in southern Lebanon. The radio said the group has decided to confine its military activities to strikes against the occupying forces.

The Voice of Palestine reported that new security measures took effect in Beirut as of 27 December, supervised by the Arab Deterrent Forces and the Lebanese National Movement's security detachment. Beirut radio reported an explosion at a Beirut hotel on 24 December. The first report said it was caused by booby-trapped cars, but the radio later said an exploding gas cylinder triggered the blast. AFP reported receiving an anonymous telephone call advising the U.S. the Italian ambassadors in Bieurt to leave Lebanon immediately to avoid being killed.

PDRY

According to Aden radio, PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad told the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WAHDAH that "false allegations" about a Soviet military presence in the PDRY are meant to prepare the way for and justify a large-scale U.S. military presence in other Arabian Peninsula countries. He said that PDRY-Soviet relations are based on fruitful cooperation. Mutual respect and the Soviet Union's support for the Yemeni people and Arab cause.

Iraq

Treaty With Saudi Arabia -- INA announced that Iraq and Saudi Arabia signed a border treaty during a visit to Iraq by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. In a speech at the signing ceremony, reported by INA, Prince Nayif praised Iraq's "heroic stand" in its war with Iran and urged all Arab countries to support Iraq, which he said is defending the entire Arab nation. According to a later INA report, Prince Nayif also met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to convey a message from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reiterating Saudi support for Iraqi in its battle with Iran.

Minister of State Interviewed -- In an interview published in the 22 December issue of the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan said that Iraq has relations of "close cooperation" with the Soviet Union, based on the Iraqi-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty. He added that Iraq is satisfied with these relations, which he said have improved recently. Speaking about the Fes summit meeting. 'Alwan stressed that President Saddam Husayn's absence was not a reflection of a "negative attitude" and that Iraq is eager to attend Arab summits. He opined that the Saudi peace plan, which was submitted at the conference, was not sufficiently studied and discussed in advance by the Arab countries.

Iran

Relations With Gulf Countries -- According to PARS, President 'Ali Khamene'i told ETTELA'AT that Iran does not want to see unrest and insecurity in the Persian Gulf countries, including Bahrian, the UAE and Kuwait. He added that recent allegations of Iranian involvement with a terrorist group arrested in Bahrain are an element in "treacherous conspiracies" against Islam and Iran, aimed at laying the groundwork for big power expansion and aggression.

Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that the "Bahrain Liberation Front" has written to the United Nations appealing on behalf of more than 1,000 Bahrainis who it alleges are imprisoned and tortured by Bahrain. Citing SOBH-E AZADEGAN, PARS reported that the front issued a statement claiming that some 900 innocent people have been arrested in Bahrain merely for supporting Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Security Situation -- A 24 December Tehran radio report revealed that the Friday imam of Bukan was assassinated by an "illegal armed group" on 22 December. Citing Iranian television, AFP reports noted the 23 December execution in Tehran of 22 people convicted of armed revolt against the Islamic republic as well as the execution of five other people in Masjed Soleyman and Gadh Saran. A 26 December statement issued by the revolution guards and broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that 72 members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq have been arrested in Tehran in recent weeks, as have 10 members of Peykar in Tehran and Karaj. The statement added that 90 members and sympathizers of the minority faction of the Cherikha-ya Feda'iyan-e Khalq group were captured over the past 2 months and that 5 members were killed during a shootout with guards. PARS and Tehran radio reported several clashes between government forces and "counterrevolutionaries" over the past week in West Azarbayjan and Kordestan.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Arms Purchase Denials -- Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi categorically denied a U.S. statement that Iran is purchasing arms from the Soviet Union, PARS reported. However, he went on to state that Iran buys arms from whomever it wishes, although such purchases do not create "special ties" between Iran and either superpower. According to an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Supreme Defense Council member 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran is restricted from obtaining arms only from Israel and that it buys equipment from both Western and Eastern suppliers.

According to PARS, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati firmly denied a report appearing in London's SUNDAY TIMES that Iranian officials have held talks with the U.S. Defense Department on the possible purchase of U.S. arms. He said Iran wants no relations or business with the United States.

Military Situation -- Iranian Joint Staff communiques broadcast by Tehran radio over the weekend reported continued fighting in the Gilan-e Gharb and Siah Kuh regions, with Iranian forces foiling Iraqi attacks. The 26 December communique reported 450 Iraqi casualties during a battle in Siah Kuh. According to a 26 December PARS report, Iranian forces heavily damaged Iraqi port installations at Al-Faw. Iraqi Armed Forces communiques, carried by INA and Baghdad radio, also indicated continued heavy fighting in Iran's Gilan-e Gharb sector.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

A spokesman for the DRA Defense Ministry denied recent Pakistani charges that Afghan helicopter gunships violated Pakistani airspace to strafe a refugee camp, Kabul radio reported.

Pakistan

In a 24 December speech to the nation, broadcast live by Karachi radio, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq announced the formation of a Federal Council empowered to "discuss" all national issues and to recommend new laws or amend existing laws. The president said the council is the best way to include the maximum number of people in state administration under circumstances in which elections are impossible. He said the council will consist of a maximum of 350 members, including religious figures and political representatives of political parties. The president added that the council will not only give advice on government affairs but also help to apply Islam in Pakistan society.

Turning to foreign affairs, the president revealed that India responded to Pakistan's offer of a nonaggression pact with a message containing several "positive" points and some points requiring clarification. He announced that Pakistan's foreign minister has accepted an invitation to visit India for negotiations.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 248 *28 December 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

AFGHANISTAN

Defense Spokesman Rebuts Pakistani Accusations C 1
Karmal Returns From Bulgarian Visit 24 Dec C 1
Communique Issued on Visit [cross-reference] C 1
Politburo Discusses Results of Karmal Trip C 2
Kabul Reports 'Terrorists' Routed in Provinces C 2
Karachi Paper Reports Use of Forced Labor Camps [MASHRIQ 25 Dec] C 2

INDIA

Pakistan Foreign Minister Invited for Talks E 1
Gandhi Repeats Stand on Relations With Pakistan E 1
Haq's New 'Anti-Indian' Acts Linked to New Arms [NATIONAL HERALD 20 Dec] E 1
WPC Campaigns Against U.S. Arms for Pakistan [AFP] E 2
1982 Trade Protocol Signed With Soviet Union E 2
Gandhi Deplores Opposition Parties' Attitude E 2

PAKISTAN

Haq Speaks on Federal Council, Foreign Policy F 1
Indian Communication on No-War Offer Delivered F 5
Afghan Refugees Demonstrate in Islamabad [AFP] F 5

IRAN

Rafsanjani on Council Session, Arms Purchases I 1
Musavi Denies Arms Purchased From USSR I 2
U.S. Claim of Arms Purchases From USSR Scored I 3
Velayati Denies Report in UK Paper on U.S. Arms I 3
Musavi Warns U.S. 'Hatching New Plots' I 4
Decisions of 27 Dec Cabinet Meeting Detailed I 4
Khamene'i Interview on Propaganda, War, Economy I 5
Rafsanjani Defends Export of Revolution I 6
Rafsanjani Comments on Sunni-Shi'ite Relations I 7
Rafsanjani, Ma'adikhah Confer on Publicity Policy I 7
Anniversary of Occupation of Afghanistan Noted I 7
Afghans Stage Protest Demonstration in Tehran I 8
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communiques 739-742 I 8
739: 24 Dec Report I 8
740: 25 Dec Report I 9
741: 26 Dec Report I 9
742: 27 Dec Report I 10

DEFENSE SPOKESMAN REBUTS PAKISTANI ACCUSATIONS

LD261858 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] A spokesman of the DRA Defense Ministry, in reply to a question from a BAKHTAR correspondent regarding the so-called violation of Pakistani airspace, has said the following:

The Islamabad authorities a few days ago once again published a series of lies about the so-called violation of Pakistani airspace by six helicopter gunships of the DRA Armed Forces. The Islamabad authorities alleged that these gunships attacked the so-called refugee camp in the border area and killed a child.

There is no need to mention that these improper accusations are resolutely unfounded and have no connection with the truth. However, this is not the first time that Pakistani authorities have embarked on such rumormongering and fabricating accusations against the DRA Army.

The Pakistani authorities have recently waged a propaganda campaign against the DRA Government. The question arises as to what the purpose of this uproar is. The answer is easy: This uproar serves the purpose of covering up the real aggression which is taking place with the collaboration of the Pakistani Government against Afghan sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Nearly every day armed and fully equipped foreign mercenaries use the facilities and military training bases on Pakistani territory to violate Afghan territory. They set fire on schools and hospitals and destroy them. They kill innocent people including children and elders, and plunder the wealth of the people and government. These criminal and antihuman actions are committed in a broad and regular manner; and these actions are accomplished with the collaboration and direct participation of Pakistani authorities.

The Islamabad authorities who are accomplices in these real aggressions on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan are attempting to hide their crimes against the Afghan people, but such efforts will not achieve anything.

The Afghan people and the world public are well aware that the Pakistani military government is an accomplice to these crimes which are committed against the Afghan people by counterrevolutionary bands and mercenaries of the foreigners and terrorists.

KARMAL RETURNS FROM BULGARIAN VISIT 24 DEC

LD241304 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1230 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council who, heading a high-ranking party and government delegation, went to Bulgaria for an official and friendly visit at the invitation of Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, returned home today.

Party and government leaders, social organizations and Kabul city toilers warmly welcomed Babrak Karmal and his entourage at Kabul International Airport.

Communique Issued on Visit

For the Kabul BAKHTAR "text" of the joint communique issued on Babrak Karmal's visit to Bulgaria, see the Bulgaria section of the 24 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

POLITBURO DISCUSSES RESULTS OF KARMAL TRIP

LD280718 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0455 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Kabul, 27 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- The committee of the PDPA was held today under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

In this session the results of the official visit of the highranking party and state delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan headed by Comrade Babrak Karmal to the Bulgarian People's Republic was discussed and highly evaluated.

A rousing welcome and approbation was also given in the session to the visit of Comrade Babrak Karmal with Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of CC CPSU and president of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in Moscow on Karmal's way to Bulgaria and the grant of the highest award of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Order of the Sun of Freedom, to L.I. Brezhnev on the occasion of his 75th birthday by Comrade Babrak Karmal.

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA fully endorsed the documents and the agreements signed by Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, during the official visit of the Afghan delegation headed by him in the Bulgarian People's Republic.

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA also approved the plan of work and the party and state general duties to be performed during the remaining period of Afghan year (ending March 20, 1982). The Politburo of the PDPA CC also decided the membership cards to the PDPA members are to be distributed on the eve of 17th anniversary of the foundation of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

KABUL REPORTS 'TERRORISTS' ROUTED IN PROVINCES

GF261646 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] As a result of attacks by bold and sacrificing DRA troops, a group of terrorists has recently been routed in the Rostao subdivision of Nangarhar Province; also, its deputy leader, (Abdol Said), has been killed. Similarly, in (Band-e Kamarkham) in Nimruz Province, another group of terrorists and bandits was routed, from whose possession large quantities of arms and documents were recovered by local police.

According to another report, the operational regiment of Faryab Province has arrested 12 counterrevolutionaries in various villages of the province and has killed several others. According to yet another report, in Vardak provincial areas the provincial security force has routed counterrevolutionary elements and recovered from their possession 250 rifles of various types, 1 automobile and 1 motorcycle.

KARACHI PAPER REPORTS USE OF FORCED LABOR CAMPS

GF280349 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 25 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] London, 24 Dec (AGENCE AFGHAN PRESSE) -- Countless Afghans are working in jails and forced labor camps situated in Soviet-[controlled] territory. These people have been arrested for disobeying government orders. Evidence shows that these Afghans are no more than slaves in Soviet factories. This fact is revealed in countless notes and letters secreted in packages, cartons, cans and bags in which soap is sold. The notes were found inside the packing when consumers opened the products for use.

PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER INVITED FOR TALKS

BK241250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] India has invited Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi to pay a visit to New Delhi for discussions on bilateral matters. Agha Shahi told Indian Ambassador in Islamabad Natwar Singh that he would be glad to visit India very soon.

Natwar Singh, who flew back to Islamabad yesterday after consultations in New Delhi, carried a communication from the Government of India which he delivered to the Pakistan foreign minister today. The communication is believed to have contained the invitation to Agha Shahi to visit New Delhi.

A PTI report from Islamabad adds that Natwar Singh also handed over to Agha Shahi an aide memoire about an agreement between the two countries for nonaggression and nonuse of force. It was in reply to Pakistan's note sent on the 22nd of last month.

GANDHI REPEATS STAND ON RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK260813 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has reaffirmed India's policy and belief that its interest lies in friendship with Pakistan. Replying to questions from a well-known columnist, (Janathampa), during the recent interview, Mrs Gandhi recalled the initiative she had taken to improve the relationship with Pakistan.

She said she declared a unilateral cease-fire after the 1971 war and taken the initiative to call Bhutto to India and sign the Simla Agreement. She said that the words "no war" were not used in the agreement because Bhutto said Pakistanis were allergic to these words. Thus the agreement provided for solution of bilateral problems by negotiations and she said that comes to the same thing as having a no-war pact.

HAQ'S NEW 'ANTI-INDIAN' ACTS LINKED TO NEW ARMS

BK241229 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 20 Dec 81 p 7

[Editorial: "Zia's New Face"]

[Text] The incident of Indian Ambassador Natwar Singh not being allowed by Pakistan to keep a lunch date with ailing frontier leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan shows the vitiated atmosphere prevailing in that country. First of all, other diplomats are not subjected to such restrictions which justifiably gives Indian diplomats the feeling of being discriminated against. Second, the discrimination comes in the wake of General Ziaul Haq's much trumpeted but never formally made "no-war offer." Third, the restrictions are imposed on the diplomats of a country where Pakistani diplomats have full freedom to function so long as they do not transgress the law.

Mr Natwar Singh has come back to Delhi for consultations, which presumably will encompass this incident as well as more substantial matters. In a way Pakistan has made his task of conveying to the Indian Government the atmosphere prevailing in Islamabad easier by letting it be known that acquisition of sophisticated weapons has overriding importance in its scale of priorities, much higher than friendship with India. Indeed, this explains all the gimmicks that Pakistan has been using in relations with India.

Observant Indians have noticed how General Ziaul Haq's regime has been changing colour from the time the Reagan administration's mammoth arms aid programme became known. Before that, the general was all reasonableness to India; as the weapons have progressively come within reach, anti-Indian abrasiveness has become strident. Indian missions in that country are under increasing surveillance and their diplomats are under increasing restrictions regarding travelling and meeting people. Parallel with this, anti-Indian propaganda, both at home and abroad, has become more strident.

How is one to interpret this change of colour? Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's inference is that the new weapons are meant specifically to be used against India. For this, it is not merely Pakistan's past record that can be cited, but even the Dulles era assurance that these weapons are not meant for use against India is absent. India would like very much to be reassured that the piling up of sophisticated weapons is not directed against her. Who can give that reassurance, and how?

WPC CAMPAIGNS AGAINST U.S. ARMS FOR PAKISTAN

BK241307 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Dec (AFP) -- The pro-Soviet World Peace Council has launched an "international campaign" against American arms supplies to Pakistan, its President Romesh Chandra said today.

Reports quoted the Peace Council chief, now in India, as saying at a press conference in Chandigarh, in his home state of Punjab, that the supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan posed a threat to India.

He said the American action must be seen in the context of the Chinese "occupation" of large areas of Indian territory, expansion of U.S. bases in the Indian Ocean, stationing of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in waters close to India and the strengthening of the U.S. China-Pakistan axis.

1982 TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

BK250912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Dec 81

[Text] The trade protocol signed between India and the Soviet Union for 1982 provides for a wide range of new items in the trade basket. They include pumps and compressors, mattresses and woolen fabrics, cut flowers and spectacle lenses. The protocol was signed in New Delhi yesterday by visiting Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Grishin and Commerce Secretary Abid Hussain [name, title as heard].

The protocol estimated that the turnover during 1981 would be around 26,000 million rupees. The Soviet Union has now emerged as India's biggest trading partner and the highest customer of the Indian goods.

GANDHI DEPLORES OPPOSITION PARTIES' ATTITUDE

BK261526 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has regretted that the opposition parties in following their sectional objectives are not mindful of the harm they cause to national unity. In a message to the national convention of the Youth Congress-I to be held in Bangalore, she charged the opposition with spreading suspicion and fomenting communal and caste antagonism. Mrs Gandi said the opposition parties' deperation seems to grow in proportion to the success achieved by Congress-I in the last 2 years. She said India's hope of economic reorientation will bear fruit only if there is an atmosphere of good will and cooperative endeavor but she said that in the last few years the opposition worked overtime to undermine the concept of peaceful democratic change, secular functioning, reduction of disparities and the pursuits of an independent foreign policy.

HAQ SPEAKS ON FEDERAL COUNCIL, FOREIGN POLICY

BK241755 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1351 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the role of the administration in maintaining law and order and implementing developmental projects at the local level, the local bodies also play an important role in this matter. You might recall that about 2 or 2 and 1/2 years ago, after 15 long years of neglect it was decided for the first time to elect representatives of the people. At that time, most of the political figures expressed doubts and suspicion and vigorously opposed these elections. But our view was that these organizations were necessary and beneficial, and so we held elections and these organizations have proved during the past 2 years that they are truly necessary. After the representatives of the people were elected, the distance between the people and the government at local level not only narrowed considerably, but the representatives also played an important role in solving local issues.

For a long time we have been considering elevating these beneficial organizations to the federal level and, as I have stated a number of times, we have intended to form a federal council, or majlis-i-shoora, to link the government and the people at the federal level.

Thank God, this objective is being implemented today. However, before its formal announcement, I would like to tell you some basic facts. The idea of forming a federal council emerged in my mind when I became sure elections under the present circumstances were impossible. Although it was my sincere wish and effort to hold popular elections, constitute a national assembly and let the elected representatives of people shoulder their responsibilities, I am sorry to say that despite every effort and preparations we could not hold elections. Why has this happened? I have explained this more than once before. The internal and external situation took such a turn that holding an election became more difficult. I do not want to go into the details of the situation because every sensible and grown up citizen can very easily guess the dangers which today threaten the solidarity and security of the country. I can say with full confidence that most intellectuals and wise people support my analysis that in the present circumstances the holding of elections would not consolidate but harm the national security, national integration and peace and normalcy in the country and in view of the larger interest of the country the national security should be given top preference.

Before I talk further on the basis of this analysis I would like to make it clear that the goal which I identified about 4 or 4 and 1/2 years ago remains the same, that is, the goal of Islamic democracy. If it is not possible to hold elections under the present circumstances, this should not be construed to mean that elections will never be held in this country, God forbid. This means the country is not suitable for democracy. The fact is that I consider elections to be a means to ensure the country's security, national integration and prosperity. Past experience, however, indicates that elections here most of the time cause chaos, vandalism and destruction. We would like to take a lesson from the bitter experience of the past and hold elections when, regardless of the victory and failure of the candidates, the country's security and integrity are not faced with any danger. I guess it will not take much time for us to implement this objective. The same belief is behind the formation of the federal council, that until a majlis, a parliament or a national assembly comes into existence through regular elections, to include maximum number of gentlemen and ladies in the affairs of the government. [sentence as heard]

The question is: If elections cannot be held despite our wishes and efforts and the sensible population of the country also concedes that elections cannot be held at present, then what is the method by which we can include the maximum support of persons in the administration?

I have asked this question of intellectuals and political analysts but I have not received any clear reply. This question and answer has further strengthened my impression that today the formation of a federal council is an important national need which should be met without delay. The political parties should be represented by any means. I did not accept this suggestion, because I understand there is no justification for giving representation to political parties when they do not exist. So, the political personalities who are included in the federal council are included in their individual capacity.

Besides this, while constituting this council I have also determined the principle that an individual cannot be a member of the federal as well as a provincial council. According to this principle, we did not include elected chairmen and mayors of the district councils, municipal committees and municipal corporations in the Federal Council. They are already included in their respective provincial councils. If any chairman or a mayor were to be included certain capable members of the local bodies in the Federal Council, that is Majlis-i-Shoora.

This Federal Council which is being announced today, will not and cannot be a substitute for a national assembly. It will function only to fill the interim gap and as soon as a popularly elected national assembly comes into being, this Federal Council will automatically be dismantled.

Two documents relating to the Federal Council have been issued to the newspapers, radio and television. One document includes the names of the persons who have agreed to become members of the Federal Council and the other document is a law which has been issued according to a presidential order. The formation of the Federal Council, its jurisdiction and its powers have been defined in this law, which I do not want to repeat here, but I think it is necessary to point out its salient aspects.

The maximum number of Federal Council members is 350, of which the names of 287 members have been announced, while, God willing, the remaining names will be announced in the future. All federal ministers and ministers of state will themselves be members of the Federal Council but their number is not included in the 287 or 350. The political personalities included in this council, which I have just now referred to, have been chosen according to their personal merit. The president will appoint the chairman of the council from the council members. At every session of the council one vice chairman will be chosen from among the members of each province and he will be appointed by the council chairman, with the approval of the president.

The status of the chairman, vice chairman and the members of the council will be the same as the speaker, deputy speaker and members, respectively, of the National Assembly.

The council, on the instructions of the president or by itself, will be able to discuss all national problems, including 5-year developmental plans and the annual budget. The council may recommend the adoption of a new law or amend existing laws. Every member of the council can ask a concerned minister or minister of state about matters related to his ministry according to the prescribed schedule.

Federal Council members will be given appropriate representation in the consultative committees attached to various ministries. Council members will enjoy the same freedom of speech in the assembly hall and the same privileges of immunity from detention before the session of the Federal Council begins as were enjoyed by the members of the National Assembly. A member can resign from the council whenever he wants to do so. The power to call and adjourn a council session will lie with the president. These are some of the main points included in the presidential order regarding the Federal Council. I want to clarify two more facts. First, in selecting council members an effort was made represent every area or region of the country.

Another important point is that the representation of scholars, religious leaders, doctors, engineers, farmers, laborers, social workers, women and minorities was given special consideration.

I want to clarify one point. I have mentioned the features of the list we have prepared in this short time but I want to point out that you have no idea of the stages we have had to go through in selecting the members. We have tried to investigate the background of every individual and analyze his ability and related requirements. But I would like to point out here that we are human and if there is any mistake or if anything is found wanting in the selection, you must keep in mind the possibility of human error. But it has been our endeavor to bring individuals into the Federal Council on the strength of their reputation, merit, conduct and character. If they are not perfect, they must be near perfect.

After this, the main point which you will notice in these lists is that all sections, all areas that have been given representation, include a group of people having a particular frame of mind. You may call them scholars, men of Islamic ideology, religious peers or whatever but it has been our goal that this Federal Council should include one such section which cannot only direct the members of the council, but also the entire population toward the right direction.

I hope that so far as human error is concerned, it will be ignored and the persons included in this list will not only be respected but, I hope, the nation collectively will approve them. I sincerely thank the ladies and gentlemen who have agreed to be included in the Federal Council and hope that with their participation, love and advice the affairs of government will prove beneficial for the country.

In addition to extending advice to the government on everyday affairs, in my mind, the Federal Council has two basic responsibilities: first, to assist the government in expediting the implementation of Islam in the country and to suggest measures which will fulfill the desires of the people regarding the formation of an Islamic society. Second, to create an atmosphere and conditions so that the beloved country, without being involved in any crisis, can achieve its goal of Islamic democracy.

This newly-formed council's session will be held at the National Assembly hall in Islamabad. I hope that after completion of necessary arrangements, the inaugural session of the council will be held within the next few weeks.

My dear countrymen, now we come to foreign affairs. In my speech today, I want to draw your attention especially to foreign affairs. The reason for this is that though conditions within our country are quite peaceful, we cannot ignore the situation around us. Under present day circumstances, despite our efforts, the regional and world situation has taken a dangerous turn, and, naturally, this causes us concern. This brief survey of foreign affairs is being made with these same circumstances in mind.

The foreign policy of Pakistan has two major aspects: First, because we are an Islamic country, we have a deep interest in the freedom, security and well-being of the Islamic nation. That is why we are working for unity among Muslim countries at every level. We strongly support our Arab brothers over the Palestinian question. We also strongly condemn the recent Israeli efforts to annex the Golan Heights.

Second, we are also a member of the Nonaligned Movement, which is in fact a movement of the developing countries of the Third World. We not only desire the well-being and progress of all the members of this movement, but we also want to keep it nonaligned in the real sense. We have made it clear to the whole world that Pakistan will maintain its nonaligned status, will not be subservient to any power and will not take any step that will make its nonaligned position doubtful or suspect.

In this connection, I regret to say that despite our refutations, we have been subjected to the baseless accusation that we are providing bases for a superpower. This is a pure lie and fabrication. There is no truth to these accusations.

As a result of the Afghanistan question, more than 2.4 million Afghan refugees have been forced to take refuge in Pakistan. We, in the spirit of Islam and for humane reasons, will help them as our resources permit. In addition, the situation in Afghanistan has also created new dangers to our national security. We have, in loud and clear terms, warned the whole world of the dangers created by the foreign military interference in Afghanistan. And it is a matter of satisfaction for us that the majority of countries and international organizations and bodies have supported our principled stand.

However, we must regret to say that our neighbor, the Soviet Union, has not greatly appreciated our stand. We in fact know we have no enmity toward the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is our neighbor and a world power. Geographically, we are near to it and we want to transform this geographic closeness into friendship. We want an understanding with the Soviet Union that is based on principles. And we want the solution to the Afghanistan problem to be in an atmosphere of understanding. Apart from this, we respect and value Soviet aid in the economic field as well.

The efforts we have begun to achieve a political solution to the Afghanistan question have also made some progress. It is a pleasure to note that under the supervision of the United Nations, indirect talks have started on the Afghanistan question and conditions and circumstances are being studied under which the Afghan refugees could return to their homeland with respect, dignity and of their own volition. These talks will also revolve around the issues of how the foreign troops will be pulled out of Afghanistan in the shortest time possible and on what security can be provided against foreign interference. We know that under the present conditions this is the only way to achieve the withdrawal of foreign troops, the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland and the maintenance of the nonaligned status of Afghanistan.

Another great neighbor of ours is the People's Republic of China, which is playing an important role in maintaining world peace. Friendship with China is an important and basic factor in our foreign policy. And I have the pleasure to state that with the passage of time and changing events, this pillar of friendship is gaining strength. In order to maintain and nurture this friendship and understanding, there is a deep relation between the peoples and governments of both countries, and delegations are exchanged on both levels. During the past 4 years or more I have visited the PRC twice. On my behalf several delegations have visited China and several high-level Chinese delegations have visited Pakistan. Recently, we had the honor of receiving several Chinese leaders. The visits by the prime minister of China and the chief of the armed forces were of great importance. The Chinese leaders have more than once announced that if Pakistan ran into difficulties, China would prove a reliable friend. We value China's support. However, we also understand that if Pakistan ever got into a tight situation it would be the Pakistani people and their armed forces who would defend the freedom and national integrity of their country.

We are aware of national defense and its needs, and we are also taking the necessary steps in this direction. One of these steps is, and incidentally it has received an undeserved amount of publicity, our recent agreement with the United States. We are thankful to the United States that in these present circumstances it not only made a realistic assessment of our needs, but has also helped us. Under this agreement, during the next 6 years the United States will provide a loan of $1.6 billion and will sell Pakistan arms valued at the same amount. This includes 40 F-16's.

I have stated this many times before and today I say it again that we are buying these arms for our defense, but we regret that despite our assurances a propaganda campaign against us continues in certain quarters, while we want peace. We have expressed the desire for peace a number of times and to implement it we have made an offer of nonaggression. It is our sincere desire to develop friendly relations, free from any strain or tension, with all countries, particularly with the neighboring countries, so that people on both sides of the borders can live in complete harmony and satisfaction.

You might recall that some time ago we offered to conclude a nonaggression pact with India, so that both countries, while remaining in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, could utilize their resources for the progress and prosperity of their people. After some initial hesitation, we received the Indian response today. This communication contains several positive points and some points which need clarification; we are reviewing them. Besides this, the Indian external affairs minister has extended an invitation to the Pakistan foreign minister to visit India, which has been accepted. Our foreign minister will soon visit India for negotiations and I hope these negotiations will help to develop an atmosphere of understanding and peaceful coexistence. I understand that peace is not only desirable, but imperative. And it is not indispensable for Pakistan alone but also for the 1 billion people of South Asia. So it is the moral responsibility of the leaders of the region, whether they are related to any big nation or small, to seriously consider this basic necessity of the people. They will find Pakistan in the forefront of the development of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, this was a brief review of the domestic and foreign situation.

INDIAN COMMUNICATION ON NO-WAR OFFER DELIVERED

BK241121 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Indian Ambassador to Pakistan Natwar Singh called at the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Agha Shahi. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent understands that he delivered the Indian communication on the no-war pact proposal by Pakistan.

AFGHAN REFUGEES DEMONSTRATE IN ISLAMABAD

BK271726 Hong Kong AFP in English 1653 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Dec (AFP) -- About 150 Afghan refugees, mostly women and children, today demonstrated in Islamabad to protest the two-year-old Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Marchers attempting to reach the Soviet Embassy were stopped by police and taken away in buses, sources said.

The demonstration was timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the arrival of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Pakistan is sheltering over two million Afghans who fled their country in opposition to the present regime of Soviet-backed President Babrak Karmal.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province where the world's largest refugee population is encamped, the military governor told a tribal gathering that Pakistan will continue to support the Afghan people because "they have waged a jihad (holy war) for the defence of their religio-3 faith".

Lt-Gen. Fazle Haq denied that saboteurs and subversive elements were being inducted among the refugees from across the border. He praised their "exemplary conduct," noting that there had not been any incident of subversion or serious crime in the province during their stay.

RAFSANJANI ON COUNCIL SESSION, ARMS PURCHASES

LD271210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, following the 26 December session of the Supreme Defense Council -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What issues were raised and what decisions were made in tonight's session of the Supreme Defense Council?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As usual the first part on the agenda was a report on the situation on the fronts. We discussed the successes gained by us in the past 2 weeks in the west and the south and evaluated the recent moves. The main point, which took up most of our time, was analyzing Iraq's new move. It has retreated hastily and quickly from a sensitive area. After the Bostan victory, the Iraqi Army deployed a large number of forces to the north of the Neysan River. They were almost totally surrounded. Our forces were not worried about the south, the east and the north; our forces were present in the main part of Iran. The Iraqi forces were about to be faced with a situation like the one in Abadan; exactly the same situation was about to be repeated there, but (?there was no time). We discussed this matter.

We also reviewed the news received from inside Iraq and the fact that the Iraqi regime has also lost control in the west and is assembling its forces from various areas against our forces in the west. It seems that Saddam's rule is ending from the political hullabaloo seen in the Persian Gulf countries and in Egypt and Jordan, and heard from the American loudspeakers and as is evident from the panic the Western world is facing now -- particularly its agents in the region.

We discussed our future move, as to where, when and how it should take place. On the whole we reached the conclusion that Saddam's situation is bad, and that Saddam's supporters are pondering and making a hullabaloo about a new conspiracy. We think Saddam's army cannot stand many more blows, such as were dealt in Bostan, Abadan and Gilan-e Gharb.

Another issue discussed was Saddam's noisy propaganda inside Iraqi territory and in the Arab region. Saddam has suffered numerous losses; according to reports, so far 2,700 soldiers of the Iraqi Army have been buried by us in Bostan and their bodies are still there. It seems that the casualties were much greater. Instead of admitting this, Iraq keeps issuing communiques, and in the past few attacks it has falsely reported the Iranian losses as being up to 20,000, in order to cover up [words indistinct].

The other issue raised in the session, which was raised by the foreign minister, was that the delegation of the nonaligned and some other countries have asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for permission to come here to continue peace negotiations. We reiterated our previous stance and said that we have never opposed negotiations. We will not object if anybody wants to come and negotiate; they can come and say anything new they have.

[Question] I have a question about the situation on the battlefronts and the offensives and counteroffensives launched by Iraq in the past week. How is the situation on the western fronts now?

[Answer] It is very good. We planned to capture sensitive heights. Heights cannot be totally captured in a single offensive. Good moves have been carried out; some places have been captured, which we have announced, and some other places are yet to be captured.

Iranian territory is generally higher than Iraqi territory. These heights are inside Iranian territory; in the first days the Iraqis captured them. Our latest strategy has been to recapture these heights, because that will preserve Iran's natural superiority.

[Question] After rumors about the purchase of spare parts for F-14 aircraft and the purchase of some weapons and ammunition from America by Iran, recently the American radios have spread rumors that some equipment has been sent to Iran from the Soviet Union. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] This is one of the conventional and usual remarks of America, and that of the Westerners in general [words indistinct] in order to prepare their public to accept the wrong measures they are going to carry out. We maintain the same policy of "Neither East, nor West." Of course, we do not place any restrictions on ourselves concerning the supply of war weapons and equipment. We get them from wherever we consider it proper. Naturally, some of the ammunition for the weapons we have must be obtained from Western suppliers and some others from Eastern suppliers and we produce some ourselves here. We are restricted from obtaining arms only from Israel. We believe that Israel must face an economic boycott in the region. As far as other places are concerned, we get them from wherever we can and we have got them so far. (?We do not need) experts; we are familiar with our weapons and we know how to use them. If we have ammunition, we use them.

[Question] In a document published recently by Iran in the United Nations, the United Nations has been asked to send a special representative to the war zones in order to see Iraq's crimes. Have any measures been taken in this connection by the United Nations so far?

[Answer] This action has been taken in order to neutralize Iraq's propaganda, because Iraq has made a hullabaloo, saying they have some Iranian bodies, they should come to see them and such like in order to reduce the importance of the Iranian victories. We have invited foreign correspondents from everywhere to come and see the liberated areas for themselves and also to witness our humane treatment of the captured Iraqis.

MUSAVI DENIES ARMS PURCHASED FROM USSR

LD271132 Tehran PARS in English 1045 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27 (PARS) -- Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi today categorically denied statements made by the spokesman for the U.S. State Department, Dean Fischer, rumouring about Iran purchasing arms from the Soviet Union. He added that Iran, in order to fight with Iraq, would buy arms from wherever it felt appropriate. But, he stressed, such a purchase was not within a framework to create special ties between Iran and the superpowers, either the West or the East.

Musavi, who was speaking to PARS at the end of today's Cabinet meeting, said that Iran's main arms purchase was from free markets and was more expensive. Although this was not useful for the health of the Iranian economy, it was effective on having no inclination towards the East or the West.

(Previously Zionist propaganda loudspeakers had allegedly accused Iraq for purchasing arms from the regime occupying Quds. Later the same sources claimed that the Islamic Republic was supplying its arms through the United States. This time they have resorted to another allegation and have rumoured that Iran was receiving arms from the Soviet Union).

Asked what was his view on the statements of the Saudi interior minister who officially supported Iraq in its war against Iran, Prime Minister Musavi said that the unity of "reaction and Saddam" in the region was something very obvious. He called on the states of the region to be wise enough to learn from Saddam's fate and the war he imposed upon Iran.

U.S. CLAIM OF ARMS PURCHASES FROM USSR SCORED

LD241218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Following the rumor about Iran's purchase of weapons from the regime occupying Jerusalem -- which for a time provided fodder for imperialist circles -- and following last week's claim by America that Iran asked to purchase spare aircraft parts from the United States, the spokesman of the U.S. State Department in a new twist has reported Iran's purchase of weapons from the Soviet Union and the arrival of a flood of Soviet weapons in Iran.

Informed military sources regard this report as connected with the repeated victories of the fighters of Islam on the battlefronts and the certain downfall of Saddam. They regard this report as an excuse to prevent the propagation of the fact that one can confront and be victorious against great and complex weapons with the power of faith and self-sacrifice. These circles are frightened of the fact that faith can triumph over technology and of the fact that it may be regarded as a model by the rest of the world. By making use of this propaganda device, America wishes to explain the reasons for Saddam's defeat and to say that Iran's repeated victories have been dependent upon the weapons of the superpowers.

It should be noted that political and propaganda circles in the West -- according to their old tradition which is a byproduct of their system -- in order to crush liberation forces throughout the world and in order to explain their overt or covert interference have claimed that dependence of Third World countries on the Eastern bloc and the danger of the expansion of communism have been the reasons for their interference and for suppressing the liberation movements.

In its efforts to confront the Islamic revolution of Iran, in view of its clear, Islamic nature which moves on the line of nondependence and in view of the fact that the Muslim nations of the region have a basic struggle against the occupying regime of Jerusalem, the West has contradicted its former tradition and has tried to portray Iran as dependent upon and in line with the regime occupying Jerusalem. However, in practice, due to the awareness of the Muslim nations and in view of the spreading and development of the Islamic movement in the region -- which naturally is offensive to the Zionist regime -- this weapon proved to be ineffectual. Therefore, they once again made use of their old, rotten weapon. The new claim by the spokesman of the U.S. State Department is the exact result of this failure. This claim is being made in order to accuse the Islamic revolution of dependence on the East. In this way, America wishes to both explain its widespread conspiracies in the region and suspicious relations with reactionary regimes, and to damage this great model that with the weapons of faith one can stand up to technology.

VELAYATI DENIES REPORT IN UK PAPER ON U.S. ARMS

LD271952 Tehran PARS in English 1653 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 27 Dec (PARS) -- Foreign Minister Velayati today denied allegations of THE SUNDAY TIMES concerning supposed contacts with Pentagon officials to purchase U.S. arms. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran wanted no relations or transactions with the U.S. He firmly denied that there had been any such contacts.

About the Saudi-Iraqi border treaty signed the day before yesterday and the Saudi interior minister's remarks pledging Saudi support for Iraq in its war with Iran, Dr. Velayati said the two countries had had a tacit pact in the beginning and Saudi Arabia had been helping Iraq up to the present time.

The only reason they saw fit to make this arrangement public, said Velayati, was due to the U.S.-inspired political atmosphere directed against Iran. Speaking on the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, the foreign minister said everyone knew who the aggressor was and what side had risen to defend its territorial integrity and Islamic identity.

Concerning Saudi Arabia, Dr. Velayati said Saudi Arabia and others suffered from getting entangled ever more in affairs which did not concern them. In the end, the foreign minister said, Iran was not frightened by this talk and moves for "they had done whatever they could and have not been successful."

MUSAVI WARNS U.S. 'HATCHING NEW PLOTS'

LD272216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the Cabinet held a session today. After the recital of some verses from the Koran, the meeting was chaired by Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister.

During this session, the prime minister said: According to reports from various parts of the world, America is hatching new plots in the region. The evidence shows that America has placed two main plans at the top of its list of priorities. One is to incite the region's reactionary governments to expand diplomatic and military cooperation in order to prevent the downfall of Saddam's corrupt regime; the other is that, simultaneously, America (?is to foresee) a change of pawn in Baghdad.

Messrs Velayati, the foreign minister, and Gharazi, the petroleum minister, also submitted reports on this issue.

Then, in order to fight against America's plots in the region, proposals were put forward and decisions were made.

During today's session, at the proposal of the interior minister and with the approval of the Cabinet, Mr (Ne'matollah Boqa) was appointed governor general of Fars.

DECISIONS OF 27 DEC CABINET MEETING DETAILED

LD271212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] After today's meeting of the Cabinet, government spokesman Ahmad Tavakkoli said:

During this session, the Persian Gulf region's problems and also America's moves in the region were reviewed and decisions were made. Mr Nabavi, minister of posts, telephone and telegraph, submitted a report on his visit to Semirom.

The government spokesman added: In today's Cabinet meeting, we discussed laws on public services which had been approved in the past and according to which those who worked abroad for the Ministry of Education and Training needed to have 5 years experience in the job. We abolished these laws because of the lack of committed (?people).

He went on to say: Salaries will be paid to the families of those who are martyred on the fronts of the fight between truth and falsehood, but who are not included in the cadre of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said: Because of the demand by the committed people of Kermanshahan Province and the Friday imam of Kermanshah, and after approval by the Interior Ministry, the Cabinet approved the decision to change the name of the city of Kermanshah to Bakhtaran; the Province of Kermanshahan will be renamed the Province of Bakhtaran.

Regarding the budget of the reconstruction crusade, the government spokesman added: In today's session, the crusade's budget was reviewed and 3.5 billion rials were put at the disposal of the crusade. An amendment to the current year's budget was approved which will be referred to the Islamic Consultative Assembly so that, God willing, the government's financial difficulties may be eliminated.

KHAMANE'I INTERVIEW ON PROPAGANDA, WAR, ECONOMY

LD262336 Tehran PARS in English 1704 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 26 Dec (PARS) -- President Khamene'i said today that contrary to the propaganda of big powers against the Islamic Republic of Iran, "we do not think it would be in our interest to see unrest and insecurity in the small countries around the Persian Gulf, including Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait." The president said that he did not consider that to the advantage of the Persian Gulf states either.

In an interview with the Persian daily ETTELA'AT today the president stated that Iran did not need to resort to terrorist activities in the Persian Gulf states in order to export its revolutionary ideology or to strengthen the pillars of the Islamic revolutionary ideology or to strengthen the pillars of the Islamic Republic. The spread of such rumors, the president said, was a plot against Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said that the recent broadly organised propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic...including the recent allegations by Bahrain that a terrorist group arrested in that country had been trained in Iran...was just a part of the treacherous conspiracies against Islam and Iran aimed at laying the ground for the aggression and expansionism of the big powers.

Overall, the president went on to say, Iran seeks friendship, understanding, cooperation and peaceful co-existence with all the Persian Gulf states. In that case, according to the president, the possibility would be created to use the great wealth, which is irregularly being taken out of the region, in the interest of the oppressed masses. Such an end, the president added, would be achieved only under conditions of peaceful co-existence with the Persian Gulf states.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said if the governments in the region got united against the world powers, the latter would never be given the field to interfere in the affairs of other countries. He said Iran was trying to make the countries of the region understanding [as received] this fact, not through forceful means, but by way of realistic and human political language.

The third president of the Islamic Republic of Iran (after the ousted Bani-Sadr and martyred Raja'i), in another part of the interview, said the number of Iraqi brothers fighting against the aggressor army of Saddam in the Iranian battlefields was not just a few. Besides military confrontations, these Iraqi brothers carry out political measures, inside and outside Iran, against the aggressive and illegitimate regime in Iraq, said the president. He added that the Iranian Government was supporting these Iraqi brothers and their movement and would not spare any efforts in helping them.

Speaking about inflation and unemployment in the country, President Khamene'i said the Iraqi-imposed war is one of the main factors behind problems of that sort. He said there was a direct connection between the high prices in the society and the war which was in its 15th month. "When we are practically unable to utilise our ports and our shipping capacity has decreased by half, when our marine zone is a war zone and ships are facing much trouble and are under direct enemy fire, when our economy depends on oil and our oil is affiliated with so much crisis in the world, do you think it was possible to escape the first, second and third effects of these factors, such as unemployment, high prices and shortages of foodstuffs?" asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i.

He added, however, that economic plans which aim to eliminate class differences in the Iranian society would be, as usual, given top priorities. "Our hearts still beat for the oppressed," said the president, "and it is a sublime goal of ours to save them from their deprivations. Asked about the government plans for the next year, the president said they were mostly in three domains, namely, economic, self-sufficiency and administrative.

RAFSANJANI DEFENDS EXPORT OF REVOLUTION

LD251308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Today at Tehran University marchers gathered to mark the anniversary of 28 Safar [prophet's demise and martyrdom of second Shi'a imam]. After the recitation of some verses from the glorious Koran and the singing of religious hymns, an 11-point resolution was read.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the interim Friday imam of Tehran, delivered the prayer sermons. In the first sermon he described the background of His Holiness Mohammad, may God's blessings be upon him, the great prophet of Islam. Talking about the similarity of the lives of the early Muslims and the Muslims of today, he said: When the revolution started in Mecca no one thought that the [word indistinct] of Hejaz [Arabia] would initiate a revolution which would overshadow Rome and Iran. At the time of the prophet, export of the revolution seemed an absurd thought. To the worldly people the sending of messages and of religion to Khosrow Parviz [Sassanian ruler of Iran] and the Romans was a sign of madness. To try to rise against the kesras [Iranian kings] and the tsars seemed to be futile thing to do. However, when the road became clearer and the movement started, hostile acts began. Economic blockades, internal incitements and calls for caution started; but none of them were effective. Today, in the decisiveness of the imam, we can see a similarity to the decisiveness of the prophet and his sons. We see that the decisiveness in a different form is still being used.

The interim Friday imam of Tehran, referring to the 3-year blockade of Muslims in the Abi-Talib Valley and in a certain part of Mecca in the worst economic conditions, said: Abu-Jahl, Abu-Lahab, Abu-Sofyan and Omayya [enemies of the prophet] are today manifested in persons such as Reagan, Begin, As-Sadat and Saddam. They try to blockade Iran. Why? Because Iran does not accept compromises. Referring to the other similarities between the early days of Islam and our Islamic society today, he said: Only the names are different, but history is being repeated.

The interim Friday imam of Tehran said: Although America, Russia and other tyrannical powers assist Saddam, he is facing a difficult plight. The same is true inside Iran.

He continued: The export of the revolution is not something we can prevent. It is our duty to acquaint the oppressed people of the world with Islam. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] It is our duty to present Islam to the oppressed people of the world. This is something which the prophet used to do while faced with many problems; and this is something we should do. They say that we interfere in their affairs. What has been our interference? Was it because of our interference in Iraqi affairs that they started a war against us? All we used to say was that Saddam should not commit so many acts of butchery there. We used to say that the Ba'thist Party of 'Aflaq, who was a servant of the foreigners, should not mistreat the noble Iraqi nation. This is not something which should not be said. This should be said. This is our Islamic and human duty.

Now, you call this the export of revolution. This is a duty. They used to say exactly the same things against the prophet that are now being said about our imam and our Muslims. They used to say that he was a madman, that he was a sorcerer, that he had deceived his followers. They are saying the same things today. They talk about a government of ignorant people, a government of illiterate people, a government of nonexperts and other things.

Read the history of Islam and the history of the prophet and compare it with your own history. You will see that you have chosen the right path and that God has shown his bounty to this nation, has given a divine mission to this nation, and that we are performing our Islamic and human duty. [end recording]

RAFSANJANI COMMENTS ON SUNNI-SHI'ITE RELATIONS

GF251215 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Dec 81

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday received a group of Sunni ulema from Sistan va Baluchestan Province. During the warm, fraternal meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that the government has paid attention to all issues concerning the province.

The Majlis speaker said that the historical differences between Sunnis and Shi'ites are on their way to being eliminated, God willing. He said that Saddam claims that the war is a war between Sunnis and Shi'ites, whereas the facts refute this illusory claim. The cohesion, understanding and amity that exist between Sunnis and Shi'ites in Iran are greater than at any other time in our history.

RAFSANJANI, MA'ADIKHAH CONFER ON PUBLICITY POLICY

LD262144 Tehran PARS in English 1842 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 26 Dec (PARS) -- Islamic Consultative Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani, discussing the concept of tablighat [publicity or propaganda] presented guidelines on its correct implementation in the work of the Islamic Information Coordination Council.

Minister of Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Ma'adikhah, accompanied by members of the Islamic Information Coordination Council, met and conferred with the Majlis speaker on Saturday morning. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani in this meeting stressed the importance of scheduling a comprehensive and complete design for naming systematic efforts to make Islamic practice and thought better known in the country.

In this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Ma'adikhah, who is also the secretary general of the Islamic Information Coordination Council, explained the responsibilities of the council.

Speaking on the reason of establishing this council he said all of the various methods for work were organised into a strong and radical system for resisting the propaganda plots and campaigns of the enemies of the revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ma'adikhah added that the council had to convey the message of the Islamic revolution to all of the Muslims and oppressed people of the world.

ANNIVERSARY OF OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN NOTED

LD271344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the second anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan]

[Text] In His exalted name. "You can occupy Afghanistan, but you will not be able to remain there." -- Imam Khomeyni. On 27 December 1979, the Islamic world witnessed the occupation of a precious part of its body, the epoch-making land of Afghanistan. Having brought to power its own Marxist and imposed government through a coup d'etat on 27 April, followed by valiant resistance by the sons of Islam, the Eastern superpower, having failed to achieve any conclusive result by means of shifting its various pawns, made use of its latest weapons and 100,000 armed troops and waged a war against the Muslim, barefoot, but free and heroic people of Afghanistan.

The killing of hundreds of thousands of women, children, young and old people, destroying a thousand villages, murdering hundreds of clergy and young fighting men and making homeless about 4 million defenseless human beings are the consequences of a move the USSR describes as defending the hard-working Afghan masses.

The flagrant Soviet aggression on dear Afghganistan, while having created a colossal problem for the Islamic nation, wittingly or unwittingly served the interests of the Western superpower, the world-devouring America. For while the aggression diverted the attention of a great many Muslims from their anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggles and focused it on the threat of Soviet aggression, it provided an excuse to the arch-Satan to justify its presence in the region in the name of fighting communism and preventing the danger of advance of the USSR, thus arming and strengthening the region's reactionary countries.

How fitting was the remark made by the imam of the nation and the hope of the world's oppressed peoples, when he said: I believe America is also making use of the USSR. For having launched an aggression against dear Afghanistan, the USSR has not only played into te hands of America, it has also suffered successive military, political and ideological defeats.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always condemned this aggression and held in high esteem the heroic struggle by the valiant and courageous people of Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes the only political solution for Afghanistan is an Islamic solution in which all Muslims, particularly the combative and aware clergy of the Islamic world, can take an active role. Otherwise, the only solution -- until such time as the occupying Soviet forces wtihdraw and the country's Muslims establish their sovereignty by forming an Islamic government -- will be to continue the legitimate struggles by the Muslim Afghan people and an all-embracing support by free Muslims of the world.

AFGHANS STAGE PROTEST DEMONSTRATION IN TEHRAN

LD271230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] On the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan by foreign forces, Afghans living in Tehran staged a march and demonstration today to protest the occupation of their country by the Russians. The demonstrators marched along previously agreed routes and then held a meeting in Imam Hoseyn Square, where they chanted slogans. The demonstrators expressed their wish for continuation of the struggle against the foreign aggressors and the ruling puppet government until the final victory and the formation of an Islamic republic.

Slogans chanted by the Afghan demonstrators included: "Afghanistan is victorious, down with occupiers;" "Neither West nor East, only an Islamic republic;" "Iran and Afghanistan are victorious, down with Saddam and Babrak;" and other similar slogans.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 739-742

739: 24 Dec Report

LD241740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Communique 739 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Offering our condolences on the anniversary of the death of his holiness the great messenger, the prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and benediction be upon him; and the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Hasan Mojtaba, may peace be upon him, we bring you the situation in the battle between truth and falsehood during the past 24 hours.

On the Bostan and Susangerd fronts our combatants continued to defend the guarded zones while taking positions in the recaptured areas. Their effective fire stopped any new grouping of the enemy forces.

Yesterday heavy-weapon fire continued to be exchanged in the Khuninshahr area. The Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired on enemy positions in the occupied zone in Khuninshahr, destroying three ammunition dumps and observation posts and killing four of Saddam's soldiers.

In western Dezful, our struggling combatants opened fire, stopping enemy activities and inflicting losses and casualties. Clashes with the Saddamists in the Gilan-e Gharb area are still continuing. Continuing their progress, our forces opened fire on enemy infantry and tanks, destroying eight tanks, one ammunition truck, three observation posts and eight trenches. During these operations a number of Iraqi servicemen were killed and wounded.

During the battles on 21-22 December, 14 of our beloved brothers from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran joined their God and gained eternal life. May their souls rest in peace.

740: 25 Dec Report

LD251736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 81

[Communique 740 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear Muslim patriots: Yesterday fighting continued on most of the Gilan-e Gharb fronts, with artillery, mortar and heavy-weapon fire. On other fronts in this area there were different operations. The ardent and self-sacrificing combatants of the ground forces, shelling the Saddamists' artillery, tank and infantry emplacements, dealt them effective and deadly blows.

According to reports, the losses and casualties suffered by the enemy on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts were as follows: Three tanks and a number of trenches were destroyed: a number of the Saddamists were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, the strong combatants of the ground forces silenced the enemy's artillery fire and brought its activities and movements under their complete control. In a series of operations our forces took six Iraqi servicemen captive and seized their communication equipment as spoils of war.

On the other fronts in the west of country, exchanges of fire continued sporadically. Fighting went on sporadically on the southern fronts mainly with exchanges of artillery, mortar and heavy-weapon fire. The enemy's losses and casualties in these regions amounted to the destruction of 1 tank, 7 ammunition dumps, 27 slit trenches and foxholes, 1 observation post, 2 mortars and 1 106-mm gun. The enemy's casualty toll has been reported as being 33 dead or wounded.

Opening fire on the enemy positions, the heroes of the gendarmerie on the Abadan fronts destroyed 10 slit trenches and foxholes, 1 assembly point and 1 50-mm heavy machinegun of the Iraqi forces and killed or wounded 10 of their servicemen. They also inflicted losses on the Al-Faw oil installations.

On the Susangerd, Shur-e Shirin and Kan-e Sakht fronts, the combatants of the gendarmerie returned the enemy's fire and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

741: 26 Dec Report

LD261746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Communique 741 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While expressing our condolences on the martyrdom of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, a summary of the latest war reports on the past 24 hours are hereby brought to your attention:

On 25 December, due to the bravery of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the invading army of Saddam suffered another obvious defeat and disgrace following its repeated counteroffensives in the Gilan-e Gharb region. The forces of Islam have foiled all these counteroffensives, which has resulted in disgraceful defeat for Saddamists.

The deceived soldiers of the Iraqi Army began another attack on the Siah Kuh region, which was foiled by Islam's combatants. In this operation, 450 of the aggressive forces were either killed or wounded and a number of them were captured by our forces. Also, a large number of firearms and ammunition were confiscated as booty. At 2030 on 25 December in the Hajiyan region, an enemy unit which intended to penetrate our positions, was crushed and the unit was forced to retreat, leaving 50 dead behind. In the Shur-e Shirin region, exchange of intense fire continued. The Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran blocked the enemy's supply route in this region and damaged several digging and engineering vehicles as well as a supply bridge. In other locations of the same region, a 120-mm mortar, 1 tank, 1 vehicle and 4 trenches of the invaders were destroyed and at least 70 of Islam's enemies were killed or wounded.

In the operational regions of Abadan and Khuninshahr, fire by the combative navy personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed two gathering points and several enemy trenches and killed a number of Iraqi soldiers. In other southern operational regions, our heroic combatants continued consolidating their positions and defending the regions under their command. They are keeping a check on enemy movements, preventing them.

742: 27 Dec Report

LD271734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Communique 742 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the exchange of fire between our forces and those of the enemy continued and intensified on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts. As announced in the previous communique, operations in Gilan-e Gharb on 25 December led to the retreat of the enemy, the death or injury of a number of Iraqi forces and the capture of one 75-mm cannon, a number of Kalashnikov rifles and a considerable amount of ammunition. On other fronts in the same sector, the powerful combatants of the Ground Forces destroyed two vehicles, a number of trenches and foxholes and tank and antiaircraft emplacements belonging to the Ba'thist mercenaries, killed three enemy soldiers and wounded a number of others.

Yesterday at 1320 the combatants of the gendarmerie brought enemy positions on the Qasr-e Shirin front under heavy-weapon fire, killing or injuring more than 100 mercenaries. Seven trenches and observation posts belonging to the enemy were also destroyed.

Yesterday clashes continued on most of the southern fronts, marked by artillery and heavy-weapon fire. On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, the gendarmerie combatants returned enemy fire and brought the positions of the Saddamists on the other side of the Shatt al-'Arab and in the port of Al-Faw under fire, setting ablaze one fuel reservoir and parts of Al-Faw's port facilities, destroying five trenches and foxholes and killing a number of Iraqi forces.

During the battle on 25 December, 56 of the self-sacrificers of the Ground Forces and 2 of the combatants of the gendarmerie gave their pure lives for the defense of Iran, our Islamic homeland. May their spirits be merry and their paths glorious.